

October 6, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph which begins on page 9, line 20 of the specification as shown below:

It will be appreciated that the invention embraces within its scope the use of the compositions defined above. Thus, according to a fifth aspect, the present invention provides a method of enhancing cognitive function which comprises administering to a human or animal an effective dosage of a composition of the invention. The active agent or agents may, for example, be administered in a food product or beverage.

Please amend the paragraph which begins on page 14, line 24 of the specification as shown below:

Patent applications have been published which claim the usefulness of a number of steroid sapogenins having spirostane, furo-spirostane, spirosolane or solanidine structures in the treatment of diseases including SDAT. Two patent publications are of particular relevance here: Chinese patent publication No. CN1096031A ~~claims the use of the spirostane sapogenin, sarsasapogenin, in the treatment of SDAT discloses two-way regulatory effects of the spirostane sapogenin, sarsasapogenin, on β-adrenergic and M-cholinergic receptors.~~ The disclosure in this document, however, is brief. The other document of relevance is patent publication DE 4303214A1 which claims the use of a very wide range of saponins and sapogenins in the treatment of a whole range of diseases that the inventors consider to be of viral origin. This disclosure is however of dubious value in that it is well recognised that there is no infective element to a very large number of the conditions that are characterised by deficient synaptic transmission and thus the basic premise of the alleged invention is flawed. In addition they present no data of any kind that allows one skilled in the art to be able to select a preferred compound from the large number that are claimed.